



Headquarters and Headquarters Battery 5-353rd Field Artillery Battalion Commander



Captain Hal Purka graduated with a Bachelor of Arts in Economics from the University of WA at Seattle, WA. He enlisted in the Army in July of 2002 as a Cryptologic Linguist.

After completing basic training at Ft. Jackson, SC and AIT at Goodfellow AFB, he deployed to Iraq in support of Operation Iraqi Freedom with the 104th MI Battalion, 4th Infantry Division from May 2003 to April 2004. In December of 2005, he received his commission by graduating from the Officer Candidate School at Ft. Benning, GA, and immediately began the Chemical Officer Basic Course at Ft. Leonard Wood, MO. Upon completion of his Basic Course, CPT Purka was assigned to 2d Chemical Battalion of the 13th Expeditionary Support Command at Ft. Hood, TX where he served as a Platoon Leader and Executive Officer.

1LT Purka then served as the Squadron Chemical officer for 8th Squadron, 10th US Cavalry, 4th Brigade Combat Team, 4th Infantry

Division. The unit reflagged to 1st Squadron, 9th US Cavalry, 4th Brigade Combat Team, 1st Cavalry Division and deployed for 12 months in support of Operation Iraqi Freedom. After deployment, CPT Purka attended the Captains Career Course at Ft Leonard Wood, MO.

CPT Purka's awards and decorations include the Army Commendation Medal with 4 oak leaf clusters, Army Good Conduct Medal, National Defense Service Medal, and Iraq Campaign Medal with campaign star, Global War on Terrorism Expeditionary Medal, Global War on Terrorism Service Medal, NCO Professional Development Ribbon, Army Service Ribbon, Over Seas Ribbon, Presidential and Meritorious Unit Citation.